



Thank you Madam/Mister Chair and Commissioners for the opportunity to be heard today.

My name is Jennifer White. I am the owner of Bright Futures Families, LLC, a surrogacy matching program. In addition, I am an infertility survivor and a parent of a child that belongs to the LGBTQIA+ community. I am here in my individual capacity.

I am so grateful to live in Connecticut and to have a legislature that has fought hard for the support and protection of growing families in Connecticut. As an active duty military spouse of 23 years, I was especially proud to announce that we will be making our permanent home in a state that shows how much it values growing families through access to fertility diagnosis, treatment, and preservation. Last year, I was proud to see the passage of the Connecticut Parentage Act, which updated the law to ensure equal access to legal parentage for all children, including those with unmarried, same-gender, or nonbiological parents.

We have the opportunity to do even better. While our fertility coverage in the state is on par with many others, it is not inclusive, nor does it consider the many ways families are now formed. The Revised Fertility coverage bill removes gendered and outdated language and takes into consideration modern forms of families, including the growing portion of our state's population turning to assisted reproductive technology to conceive.

From the perspective of a professional who works with families who struggle daily with the cost of growing their families, many of which only have the choice to turn to egg and/or sperm donation and IVF and gestational surrogacy, the current fertility bill is disappointing and exclusionary. From the perspective of a parent, the idea of not passing this bill breaks my heart. Why should my child's, or any person's, ability to have kids or grow a family be limited by the gender they identify with and who they chose to love?

While I know there is strong bi-partisan support for this bill, I also want you to know, see and put a face to the fact that there is strong professional support for this bill and, especially, that there is strong personal support for this bill.

Thank you for your time and hard work protecting and growing Connecticut families.

Kind regards,

Jennifer White